

staltic contractions of which we have distinctly observed. In short, although we have observed them for several months (that is to say, from May to November), no change in their condition was ascertained; and they disappeared with the leaves which bear them, without its being possible to ascertain what becomes of them subsequently.

The question naturally arose, What was the signification of these abnormal individuals of the *Aphis* of the maple, and what part did they fulfil in the reproductive functions of the species to which they belong? They are evidently not males, since their generative apparatus retains the same rudimentary form at whatever epoch we examine them. Moreover in no known species of *Aphis* are the males produced at the same time as the viviparous individuals, which are not the true females of the species. There is therefore no other alternative but to regard them as a modification of the specific type constantly reproduced with the same characters by the successive normal generations. Our abnormal Aphides are indeed deprived of the faculty of reproduction, either by sexual generation or in any other manner; but after the observations of M. H. Landois upon the law of sexual development in insects, we know that in them the sexes depend simply upon the conditions of alimentation of the larva. Because, in the present state of things, these conditions have not yet occurred for one of the two sorts of larvæ of *Aphis aceris*, there is no reason for our concluding that they may not some day be realized; and by thus acquiring, with the attributes of the sexes, the faculty of propagating directly in an indefinite manner, these abnormal individuals will become in their turn the origin of a new species produced by deviation from an anterior specific type.—*Comptes Rendus*, June 17, 1867, pp. 1259–1262.

*Cervus megaceros previously known in the Fens.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—If Mr. Norman Moore will turn to pp. 466–467 of Prof. Owen's 'British Fossil Mammals,' he will find it recorded more than twenty years ago that "remains of the *Megaceros* found eight and a half feet below the surface of the peat-bog at Hilgay, Norfolk, are preserved in the collection of Mr. Wickham Flower, F.G.S." Various specimens have come under my notice in the last five or six years; and these facts I have recorded, by enumerating the species as one of the peat-fauna mammals, in the 'Geological Magazine' for November 1866, and in the 'Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society' for the same date.

I remain yours, &c.

H. SEELEY.